

Use of a Common Measures Tool to Evaluate Health Impact for Chronic Disease Program Integration (Poster Presentation)

Authors: *Andrew J. Mullard, Sarah Poole, Kristi Pier

Objective: The West Michigan Diabetes and Cardiovascular Health Partnership works to integrate community-based programs that provide chronic disease education to area minority populations. An initial objective of the Partnership was to develop a common measures tool supporting standardized, evidence-based evaluation of program performance, monitoring of program reach and impact, and coordination of program integration.

Setting: Chronic disease education programs serving minority populations in Western Michigan.

Methods: To develop the tool, the Partnership engaged experts from lay-education, epidemiology, and policy-planning. They identified essential characteristics for the tool including: the need for baseline and follow-up versions to enable measurement of health impact; linkage of measures to relevant National Healthy People 2010 Goals; and basing question format on examples from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey.

Results: Final versions of the 2 page tool were approved in September 2008. The tool contains questions on: demographics, medical history, weight/height, physical activity, consumption of fruits and vegetables, and anonymous identifiers for linking baseline and follow-up data. Finally, a general guidance document was written to promote adoption and implementation of the tool. At least 5 partners have agreed to adopt the tool when they update their evaluation procedures.

Conclusion: We report on one partnership's successful collaboration to integrate evaluation for the health impact of chronic disease education programs aimed at the elimination of health disparities.

Learning Objective(s): Identify two benefits of integrating common measures for health impact evaluation in community-based chronic disease education programs.

Key Words: integration, health impact evaluation, performance measures, partnership, chronic disease education